158 CONTINUED: (3) 158

DIGITAL FORENSICS COP (O.S.)
His final post was last night -- some video -- gotta lotta views -- but it's password protected --

Batman turns to see what they're looking at -- the post is titled **"The Truth UNMASKED"** -- Batman hit by a sinking feeling as Gordon anxiously presses toward the screen --

GORDON
Can you get in -- ?

DIGITAL FORENSICS COP
Copying his drive now -- take some time -- but we'll get in...

Batman stares, world closing in -- reeling -- then --

BATMAN
I think I'm his last target...

Gordon turns -- struck --

GORDON
You...?

BATMAN
Maybe this's all coming to an end.

GORDON
...what is?

BATMAN
The Batman.

Gordon looks confused, when his phone RINGS. He steps away. Batman watches as Gordon speaks low -- his eyes suddenly lift darkly to Batman's. He hangs up, unnerved --

GORDON
...Riddler's asking for you. At Arkham.

Batman just looks at him; then starts to go -- but stops -- Gordon looks at him -- when he says, like a farewell --

BATMAN
...you're a good cop.

159 INT. VISITING CELL - ARKHAM PRISON FOR THE INSANE - NIGHT 159

Batman waits as the METAL ROLL-UP DOOR RISES... revealing Riddler. Seeing Batman, an EERIE SMILE grows. Finally, Riddler speaks, glancing at the squalid surroundings --

159 CONTINUED: 159

RIDDLER
...I told you I'd see you in hell.

BATMAN
What do you want from me?

RIDDLER
...want? If you only knew how long I've been waiting for this day... for this moment. I've been invisible my whole life. Guess I won't be anymore, will I? They'll remember me now. They'll remember both of us...

His smile fades. He looks into Batman's eyes; ominously:

RIDDLER
Bruce Wayne...

Batman's jaw clenches, betraying nothing -- Riddler's emotion rises, he looks at the floor, stewing with rage:

RIDDLER
Bruce. Waaaayne.

Batman on edge -- his eyes flit anxiously to a SECURITY CAMERA recording -- when Riddler's eyes snap back to his. The pause between them is excruciating. Then, bitterly:

RIDDLER
You know, I was there that day... the day the great Thomas Wayne announced he was running for mayor. Made all those promises... Week later he was dead, and everybody just forgot about us. All they could talk about was poor Bruce Wayne... Bruce Wayne the orphan... Orphan? Living in some tower over the park isn't being an orphan. Looking down at everyone with all that money -- don't you tell me... You know what being an orphan is? Thirty kids to a room, twelve years old and already a drophead, numbing the pain -- you wake up screaming with rats chewing your fingers, and every winter one of the babies dies because it's so cold. But oh, no. Let's focus on the billionaire with the lying dead daddy. Because at least the money makes it go down easy, doesn't it?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: (2) 159

RIDDLER (CONT'D)
(glaring at Batman)
Bruce Wayne...

Riddler quiets, ruminating darkly. Walls closing in, Batman looks away to keep from screaming. Riddler sighs:

RIDDLER
He's the only one we didn't get.

Batman lifts his eyes -- stirring almost imperceptibly -- what'd he just say? Riddler leans in conspiratorially --

RIDDLER
But we got the rest of them, didn't we -- all those sick, sleazy, phony pricks...

Batman REELS -- **Riddler DOESN'T know** -- when, Riddler suddenly softens, his tone turning almost vulnerable:

RIDDLER
God, look at you... Your... mask is amazing. I wish you could have seen me in mine...
(an intimate grin)
Isn't it funny? All everyone wants to do is unmask you, but they're missing the point... You and I both know: I'm looking at the real you right now. My mask allowed me to be myself, completely. No shame. No limits --

BATMAN
-- why did you write me?

RIDDLER
.....what do you mean?

BATMAN
All those cards --

RIDDLER
I told you. We've been doing this together -- you're part of this --

BATMAN
We didn't do anything together --

RIDDLER
-- we did -- what did we just do? I asked you to bring him into the light and you did -- we're such a good team --

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: (3) 159

BATMAN
We're NOT a team --

RIDDLER
I never could have gotten him out of there, I'm not -- physical -- my strength is up here. I mean I had all the pieces, I had the answers, but I didn't know how to make them listen -- YOU gave me that --

BATMAN
I gave you NOTHING --

RIDDLER
-- you showed me what was possible -- you showed me all it takes is fear and a little focused violence -- you INSPIRED me --

BATMAN
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR GODDAMN MIND!

RIDDLER
What -- ?

BATMAN
-- this is all in your HEAD -- you're twisted -- SICK --

RIDDLER
-- how can you say that?!

BATMAN
-- you think you'll be REMEMBERED? You're a pathetic psychopath begging for attention -- you're gonna die in Arkham -- FORGOTTEN -- a NOBODY -- !

RIDDLER
-- no -- no -- stop -- !
(covering his ears, a child's tantrum)
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO -- AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH --

RIDDLER
(angry tears stream)
-- **THIS IS NOT HOW THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO GO...!!!**

SILENCE. Batman watches Riddler fume to himself; quietly:

RIDDLER
I had it all planned out. We were gonna be safe here -- we could watch the whole thing. Together.

BATMAN
...watch what?

RIDDLER
(sulking at floor)
Everything. But I guess that won't be happening now, will it?

(CONTINUED)

159 CONTINUED: (4) 159

He glares up at Batman... and suddenly registers Batman has no idea what he's talking about. Riddler's struck --

RIDDLER
...ohhhh... you didn't -- ? -- it was all there... you didn't figure it out...?
(relishing)
You're really not as smart... as I thought you were... I guess I gave you too much credit...

BATMAN
What have you done?

Riddler sits there; he leans in with sadistic pleasure --

RIDDLER
What's black and blue... and dead all over...?
(as Batman glares)
You. If you think you can stop what's coming...

BATMAN
What have you DONE?!

Riddler sinks silently into his chair, finally retreating into an eerie, off-key **"AVE MARIA"** by SHUBERT... BATMAN LAUNCHES out of his chair, SMASHING A FIST against the glass; but Riddler keeps singing. Batman stands, helpless -- STRAINS OF "AVE MARIA" RISING HAUNTINGLY --

160 INT. RIDDLER'S DARKENED APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT 160

A BLADE SLASHES the POLICE SEAL on the door -- BATMAN BUSTS IN, PLAGUED, folding his TACTICAL KNIFE -- his eyes rove the unoccupied space -- poring over the details again -- WHAT DID HE MISS? -- mind racing -- WHEN --

A VOICE (O.S.)
Hey -- whattaya doin' in here -- ?

Batman spins to see MARTINEZ IN THE DOORWAY, hand on his gun. No time for this, Batman shoots a terrifying look. Intimidated, Martinez thinks twice, releases his grip.

As Batman resumes his search, Martinez steps in, feeling a responsibility to monitor the situation... He watches as Batman moves to the BLOODY METAL TOOL, taking out his UV light bar, shining it. He picks up the GREETING CARD --

160 CONTINUED: 160

MARTINEZ
Hey man -- I don't think you should be touching th--

Another look cuts him off -- Batman studies the card. Martinez glances at the tool, attempting conversation --

MARTINEZ
...boy, this guy's a real nutjob, huh? Killing Mitchell with a friggin' carpet tool...

Batman slowly turns, **struck.** He gives Martinez a crazed look: **what did you just say?** Martinez smiles, sheepish --

MARTINEZ
...my uncle's an installer -- it's a, it's a -- you know -- a tucker.

THE TOOL IS THE MISSING PIECE. Batman picks it up, stunned. Looks around frantically, finally spotting... a SUSPICIOUS, SNARLED CORNER OF THE RUG. He puts the tool down -- moving toward the snag -- Martinez watching -- as he crouches to examine... when... with growing dread... he begins TUGGING UP THE RUG -- CARPET TACKS **POP-POP-POP!** Martinez freaks as EVIDENCE ON THE RUG SPILLS CHAOTCALLY:

MARTINEZ
-- whoa-WHOA-WHATTAYA **DOIN', MAN?!**

Batman UNVEILS A GIANT **MAP OF GOTHAM**, SCRAWLED ONTO THE FLOOR -- it's INCREDIBLY DETAILED. Beside the map are frighteningly carved, huge words: **"A REAL CHANGE"** -- Batman STARES at the WORDS, GEARS TURNING -- he lifts his head -- looking at SOMETHING across the room --

161 RIDDLER'S LAPTOP SCREEN - SECONDS LATER 161

Batman enters the words, "A REAL CHANGE" -- unlocking the VIDEO... Riddler in his hooded uniform -- his warm tone weirdly incongruous with the ominous VOICE CHANGER:

RIDDLER (ON LAPTOP)
Hey guys, thanks for all the comments, and a special thanks to everyone for the tips on detonators. I just want to say... this will be my last post for a while, and, uh...
(a surge of emotion)
...what this community has meant to me... these weeks, these months... let's just say... none of us... is alone anymore, mm-k?

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED: 161

Batman stares -- as Riddler tamps his feelings down --

RIDDLER (ON LAPTOP)
Tomorrow's election day, and Bella Reál will win. She promised real change. But we know the truth, don't we? You've seen Gotham's true face now. Together, we've unmasked it. Its corruption, its perversion, masquerading under the guise of Renewal... but unmasking is not enough... The Day of Judgement is finally upon us, and now it is time... for retribution.

Riddler PICKS THE CAMERA UP, POINTS it at the MAP ON THE FLOOR as he walks; Batman RISES to FOLLOW THE SAME PATH --

RIDDLER (V.O.)
I've parked seven vans all along the city sea wall. And on the big night, they will... go... boom --

Batman gazes down, SEES **SEVEN "X"'S** CARVED INTO THE MAP --

RIDDLER (V.O.)
Now when things go wrong, cities have a plan. But tomorrow, we will turn it on its head. Make their emergency disaster plan truly a disaster. When the vans blow --

ALARMED, BATMAN PEERS DOWN at the "X" on a GOTHAM STREET right under his feet -- ALMOST GASPING -- AS WE --

MATCH CUT TO:

162 SAME ANGLE - OVER THE **ACTUAL** GOTHAM STREET - THAT MOMENT 162

In the "X"'s place is a VAN -- as it **ERUPTS**, PART OF THE ADJACENT SEA WALL CRUMBLING -- **A RUSH OF WATER FLOODS IN!**

163 BACK TO BATMAN 163

SPINNING at the sound of MORE EXPLOSIONS; he bolts to the window to **SEE FIREBALLS ROILING OVER THE SKYLINE** -- !

RIDDLER (V.O.)
-- the flooding will happen so fast, evacuation will not be an option...

163A NEW DISTANT ANGLE ON THE RISING FIREBALLS - CONTINUOUS 163A

REVEAL RIDDLER peering out his cell window; he smiles --

164 HIGH ANGLE - OVER ANOTHER GOTHAM STREET - AT THAT MOMENT 164

A STARTLING GLIMPSE -- **A TSUNAMI WAVE** SWEEPS SUDDENLY OVER SHOCKED PEDESTRIANS -- TEARING THE STREET APART --

RIDDLER (V.O.)
Those who are not washed away --

165 RIDDLER'S APARTMENT - AT THAT MOMENT 165

Batman's head whips toward ANOTHER SCRAWLED INTERSECTION -- drawn by the sounds of DISTANT, **TERRIFIED SCREAMING** -- it's as if the sound is coming from the map --

RIDDLER (V.O.)
-- will race through the streets in terror...

166 SAME ANGLE ON THE **ACTUAL** INTERSECTION - AT THAT MOMENT 166

-- THE DESTRUCTIVE WAVE -- NOW BLACK WITH DEBRIS -- RIPS UP CARS, TREES, LAMP POSTS -- as PEOPLE'S **SCREAMS ECHO** --

167 BATMAN'S EYES 167

fiercely search the map -- assessing the crisis --

BATMAN
Call Gordon --

MARTINEZ
(fumbling for cell)
-- yeah-yeah-yeah -- !

SMASH TO:

168 STREET OUTSIDE GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN - THAT VERY MOMENT 168

CELEBRATING CROWDS watching Bella's victory on JUMBOTRONS and CELLS -- as EMERGENCY BULLETINS interrupt coverage --

RIDDLER (V.O.)
As breaking news hits higher ground at Gotham Square Garden, celebrations will turn to panic --

People react -- SCREAMING -- some spot SMOKE IN THE SKY --

168 CONTINUED: 168

RIDDLER (V.O.)
-- as the venue becomes the city's shelter of last resort...

169 BACK TO RIDDLER'S APARTMENT - AT THAT MOMENT 169

RIDDLER (ON LAPTOP)
*And that's where all of **you** come in...*

BATMAN'S EYES GO TO THE COMMENT BOARD -- finding CHILLING REPLIES: **"what gauge? what caliber?"** -- **"rifles are good"**

RIDDLER (ON LAPTOP)
*...when the time arrives, I will already be unmasked, the pigs will have me in their custody -- but that's ok, because then... it will be **your** turn...*

SMASH TO:

170 A MOVING SHOT - FOLLOWING **A DARK FIGURE** 170

Walking **THE RAFTERS ABOVE GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN**, pulling on a **Riddler-style execution hood, rifle** in hand...

RIDDLER (V.O.)
...you'll be there, waiting...

The Hooded Figure stares ominously below where panicked commotion suggests news of the flooding is spreading -- when the Figure looks up, SPOTTING...

ANOTHER ARMED HOODED FIGURE, staring back at him -- they regard each other oddly... then nod grimly -- when they turn to see... a THIRD Riddler Figure arriving... and behind him, ANOTHER... and ANOTHER... It's A SMALL ARMY OF BITTER NOBODIES IN HOODED RIDDLER OUTFITS, hidden above the crowd, all meeting here for the very first time, as they secretly prepare to strike...

RIDDLER (V.O.)
It's time for the lies to finally end -- false promises of Renewal, change --

171 BACK TO BATMAN 171

watching in horror as Riddler concludes bitterly --

(CONTINUED)

171 CONTINUED: 171

RIDDLER (ON LAPTOP)
*We'll give them a **real**, real change now. We've spent our lives in this wretched place, suffering, wondering why us? Now they will spend their last moments wondering, why them...?*

ON MARTINEZ, completely terrified, gazing at his cell --

MARTINEZ
I can't get through -- the lines are down -- !

He turns to show Batman -- **BUT BATMAN IS ALREADY GONE!**

172 EXT. OUTSIDE GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN - NIGHT 172

UTTER CHAOS OUTSIDE THE GLASS DOMED BUILDING -- EMERGENCY VEHICLES, SIRENS -- PEOPLE running up the streets -- FIRST RESPONDERS scream to CROWDS OF TERRIFIED CITIZENS -- herding them to shelter inside the Garden -- tending to the INJURED -- a crisis escalating by the second --

We SPOT a MOTORCYCLE weaving through the madness -- SELINA -- with her leather backpack, saddle bags on the bike -- she stops at a ROAD BLOCK across the intersection -- hops off to move a SAW HORSE herself -- WHEN:

TRAFFIC COP
Hey -- road's CLOSED!

SELINA
-- I'm trying to get outta town --

TRAFFIC COP
Lady, we got BOMBS goin' off, whole city's FLOODING! Now you're gonna have to go inside the Garden with everyone else!

About to protest, Selina suddenly feels something -- she looks down to see BLACK WATER POOLING around her feet --

173 INSIDE GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN - ENTRANCE - SIMULTANEOUS 173

The victory celebration turned to crisis mode -- a MAD CRUSH squeezes through the doors -- fighting through, we FIND GORDON, rousted from bed, urgently heading for -- a MAKESHIFT COMMAND POST. UNIFORMED OFFICERS, MED PERSONNEL and FIREMEN all talk at once; Gordon flashes his BADGE --

GORDON
MCU -- who's in charge -- ?!

173 CONTINUED: 173

YOUNG OFFICER
I really dunno, we're all just tryin'a get a handle here, sir!

GORDON
-- we have an active situation -- we need to sweep the building for explosives and get the mayor-elect outta here, now. Where is she -- ?

174 INT. GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN - HIGH ABOVE - SAME 174

A RIFLE SCOPE PROWLS the panicked crowd... FINDING **GORDON AND COPS** pressing through; CROSSHAIRS follow ominously -- then SWISH ACROSS TO FIND -- **BELLA** behind the FESTOONED STAGE, surrounded by her team, peeking in and out of view as she gestures anxiously, arguing with a FIRE MARSHALL --

REVEAL A MAGNIFIED EYE -- blinking eerily through the scope -- as the scope lowers, and we see ONE OF THE HOODED GUNMEN lying on his stomach IN THE RAFTERS --

Satisfied with his position, he lowers his rifle, opens a PLASTIC AMMO CASE revealing A HUNDRED ROUNDS. He takes one, begins to load -- as we DISCOVER -- OTHER GUNMEN preparing their weapons on the rafters behind him!

175 DOWN BELOW - BEHIND THE SCAFFOLDING STAGE - SAME 175

Gordon and the cops arrive to find Bella mid-argument with the Fire Marshall -- Gordon notices Mitchell's Wife and Ten-Year-Old Son standing nervously with the group --

FIRE MARSHALL
If we don't close the doors, we're gonna have a huge problem, water's already starting to breach!

BELLA REÁL
I thought this was the shelter of last resort -- !

FIRE MARSHALL
-- yeah -- for a hurricane -- not if the whole sea wall comes down!

BELLA REÁL
-- I am not going to let those people die out there!
(angry, distraught)
Awright... I'll go calm the crowd down so we can get everyone in --

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED: 175

GORDON (O.S.)
-- it's not safe for you here --

Bella turns -- seeing Gordon and the cops --

GORDON
-- we gotta get you out, Ms. Reál.

BELLA REÁL
I'm not going anywhere --

GORDON
-- we are under attack --

BELLA REÁL
Exactly! That's the problem with this city -- everyone's afraid to stand up and do the right thing. But I'm not. Excuse me --

Gordon watches, frustrated, as she moves to the podium --

BELLA REÁL
Everyone!? Everyone! If I could just get your attention -- !

The unruly crowd won't quiet -- she starts to call out again -- when, in the corner of her eye, she SPOTS --

THE **GLINT** OF A RIFLE up behind the lights -- she recoils -- Gordon suddenly reading her fear -- STARTING FOR HER AS -- **BANG! GUNFIRE ERUPTS** FROM THE RAFTERS!

BELLA DROPS AS SHE'S HIT -- GORDON LAUNCHING TO SHIELD HER -- **PANDEMONIUM** -- AS **MORE SHOTS** RING OUT FROM ABOVE -- GORDON FRANTICALLY DRAGS BELLA INTO COVER OFF-STAGE --

HE DRAWS HIS GUN -- PEEKING AT THE RAFTERS -- AS **A TORRENT OF MUZZLE FLASHES EXPLODES** -- **THE GUNMEN FIRING!**

GORDON PEERS THROUGH THE SCAFFOLDING AT **WAVES OF PEOPLE** SCREAMING IN PANIC -- THE SCENE RATCHETING INTO UNBEARABLE TENSION -- GORDON HORRIFIED -- WHEN SUDDENLY --

EXPLOSIONS RIP PERCUSSIVELY THROUGH THE DOMED CEILING -- **UNLEASHING A HAIL OF GLASS** OVER THE GUNMEN -- AS -- A **MALEFIC PHANTOM** PLUMMETS THROUGH THE ROOF -- **BATMAN!!!**

HE SLAMS INTO THE RAFTERS BARELY IN CONTROL -- **TRIGGERING HIS QUICK-DRAW SLIDER** -- FIRING A HARPOON LINE INTO THE LEG OF THE SHOOTER ON THE BEAM ACROSS FROM HIM -- THEN -- **A SECOND SLIDER** ON HIS OTHER ARM -- HARPOONING **ANOTHER** --

BATMAN **FLIPS BACK OFF THE CATWALK** -- YANKING BOTH GUNMEN OFF THEIR BEAMS -- COUNTER-BALANCING BATMAN AS HE SWINGS UNDER THE CATWALK AND BACK UP ONTO IT -- THE **SHOOTERS DANGLING** BELOW -- **THIS HAS ALL HAPPENED IN AN INSTANT** --

175 CONTINUED: (2) 175

IN SHOCK, THE ARMY OF HOODED LOOKALIKES TURNS -- **FIRING** -- AS **BATMAN BOUNDS MADLY** THROUGH THEIR ASSAULT -- **TAKING HITS** -- HE **LEAPS OUT ACROSS BEAMS** -- **WILDLY GRASPING ONE** -- **CATAPULTING HIMSELF UP INTO** -- **A GROUP OF SHOOTERS** --

WITH BLINDING SPEED, **BATMAN ATTACKS** -- SNAPPING BONES -- POPPING KNEECAPS -- HE SPOTS A **TERRIFIED GUNMAN** RELOADING -- STARTS FOR HIM -- SUDDENLY **PULLED OFF BALANCE** -- BATMAN SPINS TO SEE TWO OF THE BLOODIED NOBODIES GRIPPING HIS CAPE -- DESPERATELY TRYING TO HEAVE HIM DOWN INTO THE ABYSS BELOW -- BATMAN TWISTS HARD -- WINCHING THE CAPE -- YANKING THE NOBODIES INTO A FLURRY OF KNOCKOUT BLOWS --

BATMAN SEES THE **TERRIFIED GUNMAN** LIFTING HIS WEAPON -- SPINS TO SEE **ANOTHER SHOOTER** -- ABOUT TO FIRE TOO -- BATMAN DODGING AS -- THE ROUNDS RIP INTO THE **TERRIFIED GUNMAN** INSTEAD -- AS HE DROPS, THE **TERRIFIED GUNMAN** FIRES INVOLUNTARILY -- BULLETS TEARING INTO **THE OTHER SHOOTER** -- **BUT ONE SHOT SMACKS HARD OFF THE SIDE OF BATMAN'S COWL!**

SEEING HIM DAZED -- THE REMAINING GUNMEN **UNLEASH A FIRESTORM** -- RABIDLY BLASTING BATMAN -- BATMAN FORCED TO RETREAT, SHIELDING HIMSELF -- AS THEY **STALK AFTER HIM** --

176 DOWN BELOW ON THE STAGE 176

HUNDREDS SCRAMBLE -- **GORDON** presses against panic to see BATMAN UNDER ATTACK; turns to the Fire Marshall and cops:

GORDON
Get me up there...!

They leap from the stage into DEEP WATER, WADING URGENTLY PAST SOMEONE in the crowd -- **SELINA** -- PEOPLE JOSTLE HER as she fights to glimpse Batman -- she pulls herself onto the scaffolding tower by the stage to see -- WORRIED...

177 BACK IN THE RAFTERS 177

BATMAN STUMBLES, COLLAPSING -- AS THE GUNMEN SHOOT -- HE SEES **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** ON THE RAILING -- RIPS **A STICKY CHARGE** FROM HIS BELT -- SLAPS IT ON ONE -- ROLLS IT AT THE SHOOTERS -- DOES THE SAME TO ANOTHER -- AND ANOTHER -- **WHEN THE CHARGES ALL BLOW!** -- HUGE CLOUDS ERUPT INTO THE AIR -- **AS BATMAN EVAPORATES INTO THEIR WHITENESS** --

THE SHOOTERS ANXIOUSLY VENTURE INTO THE FOG -- ONE PROBES BLINDLY WITH HIS RIFLE -- WHEN **BATMAN** SEIZES THE BARREL -- **HIS FINGER TASER ZAPS** THE METAL -- THE **GUNMAN COLLAPSES** --

BATMAN CLUBS THE SHOOTERS ONE BY ONE WITH THE RIFLE -- HE SPOTS ONE CRAWLING FOR A DUFFLE -- GOES FOR HIM -- AS THE GUNMAN LIFTS OUT A SHOTGUN -- **FIRING INTO BATMAN'S CHEST!**

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED: 177

BATMAN CAREENS OFF THE CATWALK -- **BARELY CATCHING THE EDGE WITH ONE HAND** -- GASPING FOR BREATH -- TRYING TO PULL HIMSELF UP -- BUT THE PAIN IS JUST TOO MUCH --

THE SHOTGUN SHOOTER RISES, HALF IN SHOCK -- HANDS SHAKING AS HE RELOADS -- LIMPING TO THE EDGE, WILD EYES PEERING FROM THE EXECUTIONER'S HOOD AT BATMAN, HANGING BELOW --

BATMAN LOOKS UP, HELPLESS -- TREMBLING, THE SHOOTER PUTS HIS GUN TO BATMAN'S COWL -- **FINGER ON THE TRIGGER** -- WHEN -- OUT OF NOWHERE -- **A BLINDING KICK KNOCKS HIS GUN FREE** -- IT FIRES INTO THE AIR -- AS THE GUNMAN SPINS TO SEE --

SELINA! -- LEAPING FROM THE SCAFFOLDING -- SHE **HOOK-KICKS** HIS HEAD INTO THE RAILING -- CATCHING HIM AS HE REELS -- RAMMING HIS FACE DOWN HARD AGAIN -- THE GUNMAN CRUMPLES --

Selina moves to Batman -- losing his grip, fading -- no time to lose, she leans down, grabs his arm -- braces her heels on the railing -- levering him slowly up -- until she collapses on the catwalk, his body on top of hers.

She rolls him onto his back, gazing down, face close to his. He looks up, haunted, as if he doesn't see her as he struggles to breathe -- when she notices HIS CHEST -- the blast has torn his armor, buckshot lodged in exposed skin -- a lot of blood -- it's unclear how bad the wound is -- he tries to sit up -- she guides him back down -- growing emotional -- cradling his face -- soothing --

SELINA
...it's ok... it's done now... it's over.

Finally he submits -- his eyes now seeing hers -- holding them -- then, gently closing... Eyes welling, she leans down to kiss his face... his lips... as she pulls back... his eyes open; for a moment, they just stare -- when --

-- Batman sees A SHAPE looming above Selina -- IT'S THE **BATTERED SHOTGUN SHOOTER** -- WHOSE FOOT SLAMS THE BACK OF HER HEAD -- STUNNING HER -- HE DRAGS HER OFF BATMAN -- **UNSHEATHING A HUNTING KNIFE** FROM HIS BOOT -- SHE RAISES HER ARMS TO DEFEND HERSELF -- **AS HE STABS WILDLY AT HER!**

BATMAN FIGHTS TO GET UP -- HE CAN'T -- AS SELINA STRUGGLES -- HE FUMBLES SOMETHING FROM HIS BELT -- AN AUTO-INJECTOR: **ADRENALINE** -- **HE JAMS IT INTO HIS NECK!**

HE LAUNCHES HIMSELF WITH A JOLT -- RIPPING THE ATTACKER OFF SELINA IN **A VIOLENT FRENZY** -- **LOSING ALL CONTROL** -- SELINA STUNNED BY BATMAN'S UNBRIDLED PRIMAL RAGE -- WHEN -- **GORDON** AND THE COPS BURST OUT A DOOR TO THE CATWALK -- GORDON RACES TO BATMAN -- **TO STOP HIM FROM KILLING** --

177 CONTINUED: (2) 177

GORDON
Hey man -- take it easy -- take it easy -- ! Hey -- **HEY** -- !

Batman stops, mid-strike -- Gordon's voice reaching him -- he turns, disoriented, as Gordon gently pulls him back -- Batman slowly stands, breathing hard -- turns -- checking on Selina -- as she rises, looking at him, grateful, surprised, the depth of his feelings for her now exposed.

Gordon reaches down, pulling the Hood off the SHOOTER --

GORDON
Jesus... who the hell are you...?

UNKNOWN MAN
(grins eerily)
Me...? **I'm Vengeance.**

Batman turns, struck by the sound of his own words in this killer's mouth -- WHEN -- A CRASH ECHOES BELOW -- !

Everyone spins -- EXCEPT BATMAN -- who continues to stare at the Man, ROCKED -- HOLD ON HIM as the **SOUNDS OF PANIC AND CHAOS FADE AWAY** -- when FLICKERING LIGHTS in the arena pull him out of his trance -- Batman turns to the others -- **COMPLETE SILENCE** as DOWN BELOW he SEES --

THE FOUR-STORY GLASS WALL BEHIND THE STAGE SMASHING OPEN AS CASCADING DEBRIS FLOODS INSIDE -- UPROOTED TREES, CARS, AND WAVES OF BLACK WATER SWARMING THE SCAFFOLDING AROUND THE STAGE -- **WHICH GIVES WAY ALL AT ONCE** --

BATMAN AND THE OTHERS WATCH PEOPLE TOSSED INTO SWEEPING MUCK -- SCAFFOLDING TOWERS TOPPLE, **SHEARING ELECTRICAL LINES** POWERING THE HUGE MONITORS AND LIGHTS -- BATMAN SEES **ONE LINE SPARKING ANGRILY** OVER THE RAPIDLY RISING WATER -- **THE WIRE THREATENING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SURFACE, JEOPARDIZING THE THOUSANDS HALF-SUBMERGED** --

GORDON, SELINA, AND THE COPS WATCH HELPLESSLY -- BATMAN WITHDRAWS HIS GRAPPLE GUN -- FIRING INTO THE CEILING -- THEY TURN AGHAST AS HE SWINGS OUT -- ONTO THE POWER LINE!

BATMAN PULLS HIS TACTICAL KNIFE -- BRACING HIMSELF -- **HE HACKS THE LINE** -- **SOUND COMES CRASHING BACK** -- **AS AN ELECTRICAL BLAST SURGES THROUGH HIM** -- **JOLTING HIM LOOSE** -- **HE DROPS TO THE WATER BELOW, SPLASHING INTO IT!** SELINA AND GORDON WATCH IN HORROR -- **AS ALL THE LIGHTS GO OUT** --

FOR A MOMENT, WE WONDER: **IS BATMAN DEAD?** WHEN -- HE BREAKS THE SURFACE, GASPING, ALIVE. Scans the darkness around him, pulling something from his belt; it IGNITES, and we see it's A FLARE -- THE SOLE SOURCE OF LIGHT NOW ILLUMINATING THE THOUSANDS IN THE WATER ALL AROUND HIM --

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED: (3) 177

He sees BELLA AND OTHERS, trapped in twisted scaffolding in the STILL-RISING WATER -- he starts quickly toward them -- climbs the wreckage -- heaving a truss aside to make an opening to let them all out -- but as he reaches in, Bella and the group hesitate, intimidated by Batman's haunting, wraith-like presence in the flare's light -- all, except a **BOY**... **MITCHELL'S TEN YEAR OLD SON,** who reaches his hand up, unafraid. Batman pulls him up... He turns to Bella, offering a hand again... she takes it. As she clings to him, the others begin climbing out too --

NIRVANA'S "**SOMETHING IN THE WAY**" BEGINS -- as Batman uses **HIS FLARE AS A BEACON**, leading the masses through water, everyone following to safety -- **a mesmerizing sight**...

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
Wednesday, November sixth... The city is underwater...

178 **EXT. EXTREME HIGH AND WIDE OVER LOWER GOTHAM - SUNRISE** 178

Light fills the sky; the island is COMPLETELY SUBMERGED --

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
The national guard is coming...

179 **EXT. LOWER GOTHAM STREETS - A SERIES OF SHOTS - SUNRISE** 179

REVISITING KEY LOCATIONS FROM OUR STORY -- the FLOODED SCENES OF AFTERMATH appear serene, surreally beautiful... **WE SEE** -- the half-sunk **CITY HALL** -- facade ripped open -- a lone dog paddles past the tops of traffic lights --

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
Martial law is in effect. But the criminal element never sleeps...

180 -- **THE DINER** WHERE RIDDLER WAS CAUGHT -- SUN GLEAMS IN ON 180
A SMALL FLEET OF PYREX COFFEE POTS, WHICH FLOAT EERILY --

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
Looting and lawlessness will be rampant in the parts of the city no one can get to...

181 -- THE ICEBERG LOUNGE -- THE EMPTY DANCE FLOOR NOW 181
SWIMMING IN STILL WATER UNDER SHIMMERING STAGE LIGHTS --

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
I can already see, things will get worse before they get better...

182 -- **FALCONE'S DRAWING ROOM** -- FRESH, WET FOOT PRINTS LEAD TO A LONE FIGURE SEATED IN FALCONE'S CHAIR; PENGUIN -- 182

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
And some will seize the chance to grab everything they can...

-- Penguin sips scotch from Falcone's crystal tumbler, staring out over the city, his mind turning darkly...

183 **EXT. GOTHAM HOSPITAL TRIAGE CENTER - SUNRISE** 183

In bandages, BELLA REÁL holds a PRESS CONFERENCE; GORDON among the embattled POLICE and OFFICIALS around her --

BELLA REÁL
We will rebuild... but not just our city. We must rebuild people's faith. In our institutions, in our elected officials, in each other. Together, we will learn to believe in Gotham again --

As **NIRVANA SWELLS** --

184 **EXT. ABOVE GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN - SUNRISE** 184

The roof jammed with EVACUEES waiting to be air-lifted, as FIRST RESPONDERS pull SURVIVORS through the skylight.

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
I'm starting to see now, I have had an effect here. But not the one I intended. Vengeance won't change the past... mine or anyone else's. I have to become more...

CLOSER: FIREMEN turn, struck by the sight of -- **BATMAN,** caked in dried mud; he looks like hell -- heads turn as he carries AN INJURED WOMAN across the roof in his arms --

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
People need hope. To know someone's out there for them. The city's angry. Scarred. Like me...

As Batman puts her into a MED SLED, the woman CLUTCHES him, distraught; Batman stiffens, unsure how to respond.

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
Our scars can destroy us... even after the physical wounds have healed. But if we survive them...

184 CONTINUED: 184

Batman leans in... returning the embrace... the sobbing woman calms, releasing him... And the sled lifts...

BRUCE'S VOICE OVER
They can transform us. They can give us the power... to endure. And the strength to fight.

HOLD ON BATMAN IN SILHOUETTE, watching the woman ascend --

185 A HELICOPTER POV OVER HIM - AT THAT SAME MOMENT 185

A CHYRON APPEARS ON SCREEN: **"BATMAN VIGILANTE SAVES THOUSANDS IN GOTHAM SQUARE"** -- WE ARE LOOKING AT A **TV** IN:

186 INT. ARKHAM PRISON FOR THE INSANE - SAME 186

THE TV sits in a GUARD STATION. Our view is a partially obscured, sidelong perspective -- we hear QUIET MOANING --

REVEAL **RIDDLER** -- face smooshed to the security glass of his cell, craning to see the story in complete anguish...

UNSEEN PRISONER'S VOICE
Isn't that just terrible...? Him raining on your parade like that? What is it they say...? One day you're on top... the next, you're a clown. Well, let me tell you... there are worse things to be...

Riddler shrinks to the floor, totally despondent. Then:

UNSEEN PRISONER'S VOICE
Don't be sad... you did... so well... And you know, Gotham loves a comeback story...

Riddler rises, peering out of his cell, but can't see --

RIDDLER
...who... who are you...?

UNSEEN PRISONER'S VOICE
Well that's the question isn't it?
(then)
Riddle me this... The less of them you have... the more one is worth.

Riddler ponders... then, finally... smiles hopefully...

RIDDLER
A friend...?

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED: 186

And the Unseen Prisoner begins to LAUGH... in the signature JOKER style... the sound echoing us to --

187 EXT. RUN-DOWN GOTHAM CEMETERY - DUSK 187

Selina stands at a GRAVE: "MARIA KYLE". After a moment, she turns, tears in her eyes, heading to her bike -- her stray cats poke their heads out of leather saddle bags --

A VOICE (O.S.)
...you're leaving...

Selina turns, startled to see A FIGURE IN THE SHADOWS -- BATMAN, his motorcycle behind him. She's self-conscious.

SELINA
Jesus... don't you ever just say hello?

He emerges, a sense of unfinished business between them.

BATMAN
-- where will you go?

SELINA
I dunno, upstate...? Blüdhaven maybe...?
(then, grins)
Why... you asking me to stay?

But Batman says nothing. She darkens, worry in her voice:

SELINA
You know, this place is never gonna change. With Carmine gone, it's only gonna get worse for you -- there's gonna be a real power grab -- it'll be bloody --

BATMAN
I know, but the city can change --

SELINA
-- it won't -- !

BATMAN
-- I have to try --

SELINA
-- it's gonna kill you eventually, you know that...

SILENCE. Then, she tries to lighten things -- a smile at an impossible thought --

(CONTINUED)

187 CONTINUED: 187

SELINA
...listen, why don't you come with me? Get into some trouble. We could knock off some CEOs. Trust-fund types. It'll be fun. The Bat and the Cat. Got a nice ring...

-- when she sees he's not looking at her; she follows his gaze to the **BAT SIGNAL** in the clouds -- smiles, rueful --

SELINA
Who am I kidding? You're already spoken for.

He looks back at her -- she nods at the sky --

SELINA
You should go --

And then she turns, getting on her bike -- when --

BATMAN
Selina...

She looks over -- a pregnant silence as they stare -- finally, he speaks, resigned to letting her go --

BATMAN
Take care of yourself...

She nods a sad smile, starts her bike, heading off. Batman watches her go, mounting his; he revs the engine, accelerating after her -- and for a moment, they chase through the cemetery, echoes of their motorcycle scene early in the film... until, they split off opposite ways.

ON **BATMAN**, staring hard ahead... finally, HIS EYES MOVE TO HIS SIDE MIRROR, unable to resist one last look, **AS SHE RECEDES**... His eyes lift again, racing toward his city, a look of sheer determination -- we HOLD, AS OUR VIEW ANGRILY VIBRATES WITH HIS EVER INCREASING SPEED... FASTER... AND **FASTER**... until, we...

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END